

34, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,
S.W.Feb. March 1st 1917.

My dear Miss Mason.

Thank you so very much for your letter, it was just what I wanted and has refreshed me enormously. It is difficult in a household like this (a household of great charm & I am devoted to the members of it) where men & women of unusual intellect & ability are always meeting & discussing the problems of the day & the thoughts that are "in the air", not to be unduly influenced by what one hears & listens to. It is through the intense devotion of Lady Glancouer to her eldest son who was killed in the Somme battle, that she has been led

(172) 21/11/11

with many of her friends who have lost
their husbands & sons, to investigate
any truth there might be in "spiritualism"
& the meaning of psychic phenomena.

A certain Mrs Robert Johnson has been staying
here this week, holding meetings or seances at
which it is said spirits of the departed
speak with the direct voice to those they love.

I was very nervous about going in to one of
these seances, but in the end I did go, & am
very glad I did, because everyone is talking about
them here, & I could not understand how they
felt about it unless I had actually seen what
happened. "I will try & describe what happened,
but first will tell you, that after the first-
few minutes my fear was completely gone, & the
whole thing struck me as ludicrous, & I am
sorry to say as fraud. We sat in a pitch
black room in a circle, & in the centre was placed
a little trumpet through which the spirits
were said to be able to make themselves
heard; for some time nothing happened
but the Johnson said she saw a great many
spirits in the room, & described them,
- officers in khaki - sailors - an Indian -

34, QUEEN ANNE'S GATE,

S.W.

a little child etc etc & then after we had rubbed our hands & sang songs to get up the necessary vibrations, the trumpet-touched someone on the knee & a voice was heard in a whisper speaking through it. Well everyone in the circle was spoken to by somebody who had died in battle, except me, & I am convinced that nobody could speak to me because Mr Robert Johnson knew nothing about me. All the other ladies were well-known. There was nothing in the least-credible even from a scientific point of view about any of these messages, & I am convinced that in this case at any rate the whole thing was clever ventriloquism. I came out of this séance completely un-moved, & then looking on the ball table I found your letter lying, & it has made me feel happy ever since. I expect the subject will be pursued for some time here yet, but for my own part, I am now quite tranquil about any ^{unusual} occurrences that may take place.

With much love
 From Josephine Wilkison.